



April 16, 2002

Professor Robert P. Lin
Space Science Laboratory
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720-7450

Dear Professor Lin:

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate you and your group as part of the High Energy Solar Spectroscopic Imager (HESSI) team, with contributions from the Spectrum Astro Corporation, Orbital Sciences Corporation, the NASA Kennedy Space Center, the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, and the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, for delivering this mission flawlessly and precisely to a low-earth orbit on February 5, 2002.

The HESSI program and launch personnel were able to surmount daunting impediments through excellent, parallel management of coordinated scientific, technical, and launch efforts. The investigator group was immediately focused and effective following its competitive selection under the NASA Small Explorer program. Facilitated by the newest advances in electronic systems, HESSI will produce data uniquely and immediately open to the science community from its acquisition at the new Berkeley tracking facility to its free distribution over the World Wide Web. Please convey my congratulations to your whole team.

I wish this strong investigator team, with contributions from Switzerland, France, Japan, The Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, success in its endeavor to understand the nature of solar flares and their effects on humankind.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean O'Keefe".

Sean O'Keefe
Administrator